

National Security Council Files

1943 Middle East War, 31 October 1943 — File No. 26

(5)

DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD [NIXON PROJECT]				
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1	reports	Situation Reports	10/31/73	B
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NSC			1176	
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B. National security classified information.

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NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS PROJECT
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Operations Center

MIDDLE EAST TASK FORCE
Situation Report #82

10/31

Situation Report in the Middle East as of 1800 EST, 1973

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NSA (LDX)

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Military Situation

The situation on both fronts continues to be generally quiet. However, detailed complaints of minor infractions continue to be filed. There was one report of Israel dropping some paratroops on a hill on the Suez front, although the hill was already within the area held by Israel.

Fahmi Appointed Foreign Minister

The wire services report said that Sadat has appointed Ismail Fahmi Foreign Minister. Zayyat has reportedly been appointed Presidential Advisor.

Secretary's Trip

The Secretary's planned trip to the Middle East and other locations was announced at the noon briefing today. US Mission NATO reports that the Council welcomes the planned briefing by Assistant Secretary Sisco following the Secretary's trip.

The Mood in Israel

US Embassy Tel Aviv reports that the present climate in Israel may be characterized as one of confusion and apprehension. The Israelis are now questioning whether Israel can withstand U.S. pressures, but Israel is counting on Mrs. Meir's visit to Washington to ensure that Israel's voice will be effective. Related to this, there are increasing strains in Israeli domestic politics, and concern about the U.S. position. Some 500 relatives of missing soldiers and prisoners of war demonstrated this afternoon near the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, according to press report. An official US source indicated the number was 100-125.

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GDS - DECLASS Dec. 31, 1981

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- 2 -

POW Lists

According to a wire service report from Geneva, Egypt has passed a list of Israeli POW's to the ICRC. Syria has stated that it will not submit lists of POW's until Israel carries out the Geneva Convention in full. Syria said that for its part "it reaffirms that it will continue to adhere to the provisions of the international conventions, particularly the Geneva Convention including the submission of the names of POW's and authorizing Red Cross personnel to visit them." Israel has sent the names of some 7,000 Arab prisoners to the ICRC.

Jordanian Force in Syria

In a message to the Armed Forces, King Hussein said that Jordanian troops may return home very soon from Syria, in view of the fact that the fighting has stopped in Syria, and also the fact that forces from several other Arab countries remain in Syria.

Algerian Statement on Middle East

An official Algerian Government statement hailed the Egyptian and Syrian military actions "as having restored Arab dignity, and as an affirmation of Arab will to regain their rights by any means." The statement calls attention to the solidarity of African, non-aligned and socialist nations with the Arab cause. It states that the "isolation of Zionism and its allies must be maintained and reinforced until just and durable solution in ME has been achieved." US Int. Algiers reads this statement as meaning that Algeria will accept what Egypt and Syria find acceptable with regard to the ceasefire and the ultimate disposition of their respective territories.

UNEF

In a progress report submitted to the Security Council today, the Secretary General said that the UNEF will be up to about one-third of its eventual projected strength by the end of the first week of November. This will be possible, he said, as a result of decisions taken by the Irish to provide some 400 men and the Swedes, Finns, and Austrians to up their advance contingents to battalion strength.

On deployments, Waldheim indicated the Finns are now established in Suez City, the Swedes in Ismailia, and the Austrians in Cairo, where they are engaged in special tasks, including patrols southwest of Suez.

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- 3 -

Waldheim gave no further clues on the others he plans to add to bring the UNEF up to full strength. Embassy Lima reports Peru has volunteered a contingent, and Embassy Oslo reports Norwegian disappointment at not being asked by the UN to contribute forces.

Finnish UNEF Airlift

Plans are not well advanced for the transport of Finnish personnel and equipment to Cairo beginning on 1 November with the departure of the first Finnish UNEF augmentation elements non-stop from Helsinki via USAF C-141's. We have alerted the posts along the anticipated itinerary that overflight clearance requests are on the way and have queried USINT Cairo on possible limitations on the availability of jet fuel at Cairo International.

Equipment Requests

We now have a request from the UN for heavy equipment in support of UNEF operations. In particular, the UN wants virtually everything but light vehicles for all UNEF contingents, except the Canadians. This would include transport and service vehicles (busses, shop-trucks, and pick-ups) engineering equipment, water purification equipments, etc. The aim is to use standardized equipment from the start, rather than having to accomplish standardization later as was done in the previous UNEF.

APPROVED BY: 

DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

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Department of State

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Nixon - Brandt

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FOR AMBASSADOR
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: GW, PFOR, US
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S REPLY TO BRANDT LETTER

President
Still very
tough with Germans

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRESIDENT
TO CHANCELLOR BRANDT AT YOUR EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY:

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. CHANCELLOR:

QUOTE I APPRECIATE YOUR LETTER AND THE FRANKNESS
WITH WHICH YOU HAVE SET FORTH YOUR VIEWS ON THE PROBLEMS
THAT THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS HAS CREATED WITHIN THE
ALLIANCE. THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS THAT I WISH TO CLARIFY.

QUOTE I UNDERSTAND THAT ON THE SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS
RELATING TO THE CONFLICT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB
GOVERNMENTS, THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO REACH A COMMON
ALLIANCE POSITION. OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES HAVE ECONOMIC
INTERESTS IN THE AREA THAT LEAD TO POSITIONS THAT
DIVERGE FROM OUR OWN. IN THIS LIGHT, THE US DID NOT
EXPECT PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR ITS POLICY.

QUOTE I ALSO APPRECIATE THAT THE EUROPEANS,
INCLUDING THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, WERE UNDER A GREAT
DEAL OF PRESSURE FROM ARAB GOVERNMENTS. I HAD BEEN
LED TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS NEVERTHELESS AGREED BETWEEN
OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS THAT THE US WOULD DRAW ON PART

OF THE MILITARY STOCKS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC FOR
THE RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL. THERE WAS NEVER ANY QUESTION
OF DOING THIS AGAINST THE WISHES OF YOUR GOVERNMENT.
IT WAS THUS A SHOCK WHEN OUR AMBASSADOR WAS INFORMED
THAT THESE ACTIVITIES WERE TO STOP, EVEN THOUGH THE
CRISIS WAS FAR FROM OVER. IT WAS EVEN MORE SURPRISING
THAT THIS DECLARATION WAS RELEASED TO THE PRESS BEFORE
WE COULD RESPOND.

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-2- STATE 214396, OCT 31, NODIS

QUOTE IN ANY CASE, IT IS BEST IF WE PUT THIS INCIDENT BEHIND US AND CONSIDER IT CLOSED.

QUOTE THE SECOND POINT, HOWEVER, RELATES TO THE MORE BASIC PROBLEM OF THE INTERESTS OF THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE. YOU NOTE THAT THIS CRISIS WAS NOT A CASE OF COMMON RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ALLIANCE, AND THAT MILITARY SUPPLIES FOR ISRAEL WERE FOR PURPOSES WHICH ARE NOT PART OF THE ALLIANCE RESPONSIBILITY.

QUOTE I DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN DRAW SUCH A FINE LINE WHEN THE USSR WAS AND IS SO DEEPLY INVOLVED, AND WHEN THE CRISIS THREATENED TO SPREAD TO THE WHOLE GAMUT OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE ALLIANCE CANNOT OPERATE ON A DOUBLE STANDARD IN WHICH US RELATIONS WITH THE USSR ARE SEPARATED FROM THE POLICIES THAT OUR ALLIES CONDUCT TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION. BY DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM THE US IN THE MIDDLE EAST, OUR ALLIES MAY THINK THEY PROTECT THEIR IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC INTERESTS, BUT ONLY AT GREAT LONG-TERM COST. A DIFFERENTIATED DETENTE IN WHICH THE ALLIES HOPE TO INSULATE THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE USSR CAN ONLY DIVIDE THE ALLIANCE AND ULTIMATELY PRODUCE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR EUROPE. IF THE USSR LEARNS THAT IT CAN EXPLOIT THE MIDDLE EAST TO DIVIDE THE US FROM ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES, THEN IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE SOVIET UNION ADOPTS MORE AGGRESSIVE POLICIES ELSEWHERE. ✓

QUOTE I PROFOUNDLY HOPE THAT WHAT HAS OCCURRED IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS REFLECTS ONLY LACK OF ADEQUATE AND TIMELY COMMUNICATION PRODUCED BY THE RUSH OF EVENTS. I AGREE THAT WE NEED TO GIVE SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT TO THE MEANING OF RECENT EVENTS FOR THE ALLIANCE. THE WORK WE HAVE ALREADY STARTED IN FRAMING A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ALLOWS US TO EXAMINE SOME OF THESE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS AND SETS FORTH THE

PRINCIPLES AND MECHANISMS FOR HANDLING WHATEVER PROBLEMS MAY ARISE. YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT THAT SUBSTANCE IS MOST IMPORTANT, AND, AS YOU ARE AWARE, WE HOPE TO MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY IN THE MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND WITH NATO. THE CONCERNS I HAVE EXPRESSED

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-3- STATE 214396, OCT 31, NODIS

IN THIS LETTER ARE NOT, HOWEVER, EASED BY THE REFUSAL OF THE NINE EVEN TO MENTION THE WORD "PARTNERSHIP" IN A COMMON DOCUMENT WITH THE US. SINCERELY, RICHARD NIXON UNQTE.

3. CHANCELLOR'S LETTER DELIVERED OCTOBER 28 BY AMBASSADOR VON STADEN FOLLOWS:

QUOTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

QUOTE I AM CONCERNED OVER SIGNS OF OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC REACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION DURING THE MOST RECENT MIDDLE EAST WAR.

QUOTE IN THE INTEREST OF OUR UNTROUBLED AND TRUSTFUL RELATIONS AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF COHESION WITHIN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE I WISH TO INFORM YOU WITHOUT DELAY OF MY IDEAS ON THIS POINT IN ORDER TO OBVIATE ANY SERIOUS MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US OR WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

QUOTE WITHOUT KNOWING DETAILS OF THE ACTIONS OR ARGUMENTS THAT HAVE LED YOUR GOVERNMENT TO BRING THINGS UNDER CONTROL IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IT WAS AND IS MY OPINION THAT NO ONE BUT THE UNITED STATES IN COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION WAS CAPABLE OF DOING THIS. IT SEEMS THAT YOUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. WHO WOULD NOT APPRECIATE THIS. MY GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT IN ITS OWN WAY TO USE ITS COMPARATIVELY VERY SMALL POSSIBILITIES FOR PEACE-SECURING MEASURES. IT WOULD BE A GRAVE ERROR, THEREFORE, TO PRESUME THAT MY GOVERNMENT HAD NOT HAD SUFFICIENT UNDERSTANDING FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF BALANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY IMPOSED UPON YOU.

QUOTE AT THE SAME TIME IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE THAT, AS IN PREVIOUS CRISES, THIS WAS NOT A CASE OF COMMON RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ALLIANCE.

QUOTE WE HAVE PROVED MORE THAN ONCE THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN INDIFFERENT AND THAT WE KNOW WHO OUR CHIEF ALLY IS. BUT IT IS ANOTHER THING IF - WITHOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAVING BEEN COMPLETELY INFORMED, LET ALONE BEFOREHAND ASKED - UNITED STATES MATERIALS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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Department of State TELEGRAM

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-4- STATE 214396, OCT 31, NODIS

ARE HANDLED FROM THE TERRITORY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY FOR PURPOSES WHICH ARE NOT A PART OF ALLIANCE RESPONSIBILITY. ON THIS POINT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COULD NOT, IN PRINCIPLE, ACT ANY DIFFERENTLY THAN MY PREDECESSOR IN OFFICE DID IN 1956. LIKE THEN, THIS NEED NOT AND SHOULD NOT LEAD TO TENSION, EITHER BI-LATERALLY OR WITHIN THE ALLIANCE, FOR OUR COMMON INTERESTS CAN AND MUST NOT BE AFFECTED WHEN WE DISCOVER DEFICIENCIES IN COMMUNICATION AND CONCERTATION.

QUOTE SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY, I WILL GLADLY EXPLAIN THIS IN DETAIL. TODAY I AM ANXIOUS TO CONTRADICT EMPHATICALLY ANY CONJECTURE THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY MIGHT BE LACKING IN ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY.

QUOTE I AM CONVINCED THAT THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND FRICTIONS THAT HAVE ARISEN WILL LEAD TO MORE THOUGHT BEING GIVEN TO PROBLEMS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE WITH A VIEW TO ATTAINING THE GOAL THAT WE ALL PURSUE, NAMELY, THE STRENGTHENING AND DEEPENING OF THE ALLIANCE IN A DIFFICULT TIME.

QUOTE THESE OCCURRENCES SHOW HOW NECESSARY THE WORK IS THAT IS TO BE DONE IN PREPARATION FOR YOUR VISIT TO EUROPE. IN THIS CONNECTION, SUBSTANCE WILL BE STILL MORE IMPORTANT THAN LANGUAGE.

QUOTE WITH KIND REGARDS, YOURS SINCERELY,
SGND. WILLY BRANDT, CHANCELLOR OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF GERMANY UNQUOTE KISSINGER

DRAFTED BY:
TEXT RECEIVED FROM WH

APPROVED BY:
S/MR. EAGLEBURGER

CLEARANCES:
EUR: MR. SPRINGSTEEN
S/S: MR. GAMTON

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Operations Center

MIDDLE EAST TASK FORCE
Situation Report # 80

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Situation Report in the Middle East as of 0600 EST, 10/31/73

Military Situation

The ceasefire continues to hold on both fronts, with no significant violations.

POWs

ICRC representatives in Cairo have been told by Egyptian authorities that they have no objection to forwarding POW names to the ICRC delegation in Cairo now. The Egyptian authorities said that they also are ready to proceed with POW repatriation when troops have returned to the positions held on October 22. Meanwhile, King Hussein has promised visiting Congressman Ryan and Steele that he will urge the Syrians to follow Egypt's lead and release the names of POWs as well as make some humanitarian gesture, such as turning over wounded POWs to the ICRC. At the UN, the Russian delegation wants to eliminate from the Security Council President's appeal to the leaders of Egypt, Syria and Israel a specific reference to their responsibility to cooperate with the ICRC in connection with POWs.

OIL

Our Embassy in Jidda judges as probably untrue BBC and VOA reports that Saudi Arabia has implemented an additional five percent cut in oil production.

MEIR

Prime Minister Meir, under political pressure at home, is reportedly emphasizing that the US pressed Israel into accepting a ceasefire and permitting the Egyptian Third Army to be supplied. Al Ahram views Prime Minister Meir's US visit against the background of US pressure on Israel.

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GDS - DECLASS Dec. 31, 1981

SECRET/EXDIS

-2-

UNEF/UNTSO

USUN has been informed that the USG should now consider as "formal" the UN requests for air lift of Finnish soldiers from Helsinki to Cairo and air lift of 20 tons of equipment from Pisa to Cairo, both of which we have accepted. Defense tentatively plans to airlift the 668 Finnish troops and accompanying cargo in C-141 aircraft on November 1, 5 and 6 as requested by the UN Secretariat. The equipment at Pisa will probably be transported by C-130 aircraft once we have been informed that the equipment is assembled and ready for shipment.

In the interest of standardization of equipment and the avoidance of maintenance, cost and resupply problems which have plagued other peacekeeping operations, the UN has formally requested us to provide and airlift the greater part of the heavy equipment for UNEF. They have indicated they would prefer US donation of this equipment but would still wish US to be the supply source, even if on a reimbursable basis.

AmEmbassy Ottawa reports that GOC has responded favorably to an UNSYG request that Canada provide the logistics component for UNEF for the initial six months period. Canadian participation in this form is reportedly acceptable to both sides of the conflict.

INDIAN OCEAN

Indian press attention has reported the ship movements in terms of "latest U.S. gunboat diplomacy", but the government has declined all official comment. Thus far, no anti-Indian implications are being read into the situation. Our Ambassador in Jakarta, however, was publicly admonished by Foreign Minister Malik for not giving notification of the transit of the Strait of Malacca.

APPROVED BY: _____

K. H. H. H.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR C...

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Operations Center

MIDDLE EAST TASK FORCE
Situation Report # 81

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Situation Report in the Middle East as of 1200 EST, Oct. 31, 1973

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Military Situation

The ceasefire continues to hold on both fronts. However, Lebanese Army and UNTSO sources report two shooting incidents along the Lebanese-Israeli border. Lebanese Army units have now reappeared in some portions of the border area and have reoccupied positions and checkpoints vacated during the May crisis.

POW's

The ICRC reports that its Chief Representative in Cairo had visited 45 wounded Israeli POW's on October 30. Israeli concern about prisoners in Syrian hands remains intense. Before departing for the United States, Mrs. Meir in a conversation with Ambassador Keating requested that we raise with the Soviets the problem of Israeli POW's in Syria. Meanwhile, a senior IDF officer has told reporters that 125 rather than 100 trucks will be allowed to cross to the Egyptian Third Army.

Sadat Press Conference

In a Cairo press conference this morning, President Sadat explained that Egypt had accepted the ceasefire "because I am not prepared to fight America". Sadat held firm to his insistence that Israel must return to its October 22 ceasefire positions, indicating that discussion of such matters as lifting the naval blockade of the Bab al-Mandeb must await progress toward disengagement. Sadat belittled the military significance of the Israeli bridgehead west of the Suez Canal, comparing it to the last-gasp German Ardennes offensive in World War II. He accused Israeli propaganda of exaggerating the plight of the Egyptian Third Army forces on the east bank.

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GDS - DECLAS Dec. 31, 1981

SECRET/EXDIS

-2-

Despite considerable pressure on him from his officers, Sadat said, Egypt will continue to observe the ceasefire. Egyptian and Israeli military representatives will continue to meet to draw up "clear" ceasefire lines but Sadat emphatically denied that Egypt will agree to direct negotiations with Israel. He did say that an international peace conference under UN auspices can begin "immediately after the process of disengagement starts." Sadat emphasized that political action is going forward with other action and announced that the Secretary will visit Cairo November 6-7.

USINT Cairo meanwhile reports that politically Sadat seems to have weathered the three weeks of hostilities with little apparent internal threat to his position. Despite reported Egyptian military dissatisfaction with the ceasefire decision, the armed forces show no signs of disloyalty or inclination to assume non-military functions.

US Resupply

Israeli concern over continuous proof of the US resupply effort remains intense. In a conversation with Maj. Gen. Casey and the USDAO, General Zur, Assistant to the Minister of Defense, urged that the US airlift to Israel be prolonged beyond its scheduled November 4-5 termination date and until the first shiploads of US materiel have been received. Zur stressed that this request stems from essentially political rather than practical concerns.

European Summit on Mideast

A French government spokesman announced today that President Pompidou has invited other European Community heads of government to meet before the end of the year to harmonize European attitudes on the Mideast situation. Meanwhile, the Dutch Foreign Minister yesterday called on other European Community members to stand behind the Netherlands in the face of the widening Arab oil embargo of his country. West Germany too is now being threatened with boycott of oil by Libya unless it takes a more "pro-Arab" public stance.

Status of US Military Alert

EUCCOM reports that its forces returned to DEFCON 5 (normal peacetime readiness) status at 1200Z today except for the Sixth Fleet which remains at DEFCON 3.

APPROVED BY: _____

DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

SECRET/EXDIS

TOP SECRET



THE JOINT STAFF

N M C C

THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

31 October 1973
0700 EST

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

Subject: Recapitulation of Airlift Deliveries to Israel

Listed below are data covering US airlift deliveries to Israel as of 0830Z 31 October 1973:

Totals for 24-Hour Periods Ending 0730Z on the Day Shown*	25 Oct	26 Oct	27 Oct	28 Oct
By Soviets	20-40	340-480	410-564	330-456
By U.S. Mil	816	867	858	846
By El Al	15	212	370**	171
	29 Oct	30 Oct	31 Oct	
By Soviets	320-432	180-252	100	
By U.S. Mil	792	640	739	
By El Al	309	85	52	
Cumulative Totals*	25 Oct	26 Oct	27 Oct	28 Oct
By Soviets	10110-12876	10450-13356	10860-13920	11190-14376
By U.S. Mil	8721	9588	10446	11292
By U.S./El Al	2104	2316	2686**	2857
	29 Oct	30 Oct	31 Oct	
By Soviets	11510-14808	11690-15060	12260	
By U.S. Mil	12084	12724	13463	
By U.S./El	3166	3251	3303	

* 0830Z commencing 28 Oct. Excluding aircraft delivered.

** Includes reconciliation of previously unreported tonnages.

Classified by DDO, NMCC
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY XGDS-3

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFY ON N/A

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U.S. Aircraft Delivered

<u>No.</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Date Delivered</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
8	F-4E	14 Oct 73	
6	F-4E	15 Oct 73	
12	C-130B	15 Oct 73	
12	F-4E	17 Oct 73	
2	F-4E	18 Oct 73	
4	F-4E	20 Oct 73	
8	A-4	21 Oct 73	
10	A-4	22 Oct 73	
7	F-4	22 Oct 73	
1	F-4	23 Oct 73	F-4 air delivery completed.
13	A-4	23 Oct 73	
5	A-4	24 Oct 73	
2	A-4	28 Oct 73	A-4 air delivery completed. 12 A-4s in transit by ship. 4 A-4s awaiting sealift in Norfolk.

Sorties

	<u>Last 24 Hours</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
C-141	13	263
C-5	5	86
E1 A1	2	83

Charles K. Heiden

CHARLES K HEIDEN
Brigadier General, USA
Deputy Director for
Operations, NMCC

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